



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

**Through the Eyes of
Jim Rathert:
*In Focus***
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Friday, December 3
7 p.m.

Join us on Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4, as we welcome Jim Rathert, wildlife photographer for the Missouri Department of Conservation. On Friday at 7 p.m. Jim will present a program based on his recently published book, *In Focus*. Since 1984, Jim has been bringing the beauty of nature as well as conservation values to thousands of readers each month in the *Conservationist*. *In Focus* is a sampling of some of Jim's most beautiful work.

**Jim Rathert Book Signing:
*In Focus***
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Saturday, December 4
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail,
please call (636) 441-4554.*

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

December 2004 Volume 04, Number 12



Bird Feeding

By Nancy Snider, Conservation Education Consultant

Want to learn more about birds but don't know where to start? Try bird feeding!

Having bird feeders by your home strategically placed near a window will allow you to watch the birds while staying nice and warm. The birds will repeatedly visit your bird feeder, which allows the novice more opportunities to get a look at them. Unlike spring migratory birds, they are not hiding up in the tops of the trees, frustrating you by just showing glimpses of bellies and tails. *What bird was that? you asked. It had a white belly! What does the field guide say? Oops! It is gone now!* Many of our winter resident birds are very cooperative and show themselves at bird feeders. They stay long enough so that you can get a good look, and there is time to look them up in a field guide. When my children were young, I taped the *Winter Birds* pamphlet (available from MDC offices) on the window that looked out upon our bird feeders. It has a great poster of some of our common winter birds. My children soon learned to tell the birds apart.



Bird feeders also allow you to observe bird behavior. Watch how the birds feed. What are they eating? Do they prefer a certain type of feeder? If I let my bird feeder get empty, there is a chickadee that raises a fuss and chatters very loudly until I fill the feeder.



What type of bird feeder should you use? What type of seed should you provide? This depends on what you want. For example, goldfinches prefer thistle seed. Therefore you need a thistle feeder. Almost all our winter birds like sunflower seed. Sunflower seed can be used in a variety of feeders. Try making your own feeder. This is a fun winter project that children can enjoy. To learn more about what seed to feed to birds, ask for the pamphlet *Backyard Bird Feeding*, available at any MDC office.

What about squirrels? Many people do not like feeding squirrels at their bird feeders. Is there a foolproof method for keeping squirrels out of your feeders? I have not found one! However, you can try specialized feeders and attachments. Let me know if you find one that works. I have decided to enjoy watching the squirrels defeat my attempts to keep them out of the bird feeder!




2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on December 24.
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

3

The Demise of Freddy Frog

Friday7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Families) Fredrick T. Frog passed away from the harmful effects of pollution. Join us for the funeral services as we mourn the loss of poor Freddy. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Frog Legs Anonymous. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin November 18.)



4

Clark Hike & Winter Food for Wildlife

Saturday8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

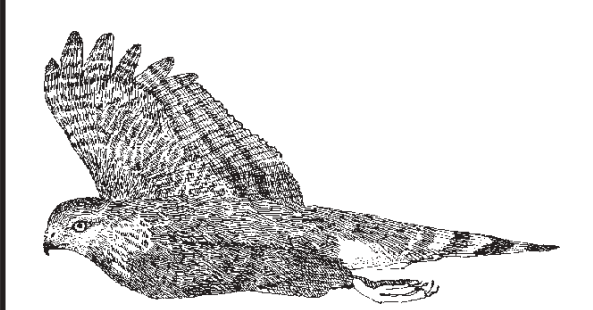
(Adults) The Weldon Spring area supports a wide range of wildlife during the winter. Have you ever wondered what natural food sources are available for these animals? Come out and join us for an invigorating 5.3-mile hike through the hills of Weldon Spring Conservation Area as we look for nuts, berries and other foods that the native animals use during the winter. If the weather conditions are right, we may even see one of nature’s art works that we call frost flowers. *Naturalist: Marvin Staloch.* (Reservations begin November 22.)

4

Hawks of Missouri: “Buteoful Accipiters”

Saturday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Join us for an in-depth look at the different hawks of Missouri. Merely the shape of their wings in flight can separate them. Learn the differences among buteos, accipiters and harriers in the hawk family. *Naturalist: KyLee Brockmann.* (Reservations begin November 22.)



8

Carnivores & Raptors of Missouri

Wednesday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Come learn about Missouri’s most effective hunters. The flesh-eating mammals and birds of prey of Missouri are magnificent and highly specialized animals at the top of their food chains. Find out why it is so important that we protect these efficient predators. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin November 24.)

9

Owl Prowl

Thursday6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(All Ages) Whooo is calling in the woods? Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls and winter visitors. Then take a stroll on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and, hopefully, call in some owls close to us. Warm clothing is a must for the walk portion of this program. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin November 24.)

11

Holiday Happenings

Saturday10 a.m. – Noon


(All Ages) Come and celebrate this fun time of the year with your family and friends. We will make seasonal crafts and share a cup of cider. *Naturalist: Margaret McGregor.* (Reservations begin November 29.)

15

Owls

Wednesday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) Do you know what is special about owls? Join us as we learn about Missouri’s owls through stories, crafts and activities. *Naturalists: Shanna Raeker & Penny Elder.* (Reservations begin December 1.)



Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 300-1953 ext. 251
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through September 30

Friday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

October 1 through April 30

Friday through Tuesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

These hours are subject to change.
Please call the range for updated hours.

CLOSED DAYS

Wednesday and Thursday
All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Rifle/Pistol Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap/Skeet Fields: \$3 per round/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per person for every set of three turkey targets
Special Use Permits: Please call to inquire.
Note: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit.
Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through August 31

Wednesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

September 1 through April 30


Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED DAYS

Monday and Tuesday
All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Pistol/Rifle Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap Range: \$3 per 25 targets/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per hour/per person
Archery Range: \$3 per hour/per person
Range Special Use Permit: \$20 per hour/per permit
Building Use Permit: Inquire
NOTE: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit
Trap Ranges: No shot size larger than 7 ½
Pistol/Rifle Range: No center fire ammunition large than .50 caliber
Ear & eye protection is required on all ranges.



Throughout December, enjoy outdoor shooting sports at our ranges.

Archery *Rifle/Pistol* Shotgun Patterning* Trap/Skeet

Ranges are closed on state holidays and for special events.

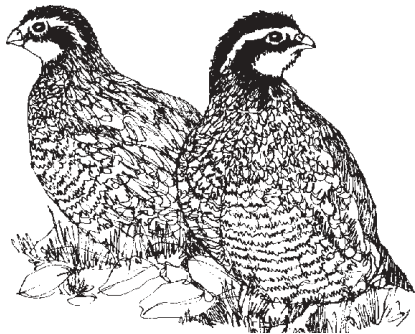
For program information, check our website: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on December 24.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

9 Winter’s Amazing Race
Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) Winter is harsh and cruel on wildlife. Many are in the race of their lives. Will they survive winter’s brutal weather? Come learn about the many adaptations animals have that help them win winter’s race. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin November 24.)

14 Frontiers Harvesting Quail #81
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Ages 7-18) Come learn how to harvest and field dress one of Missouri’s game birds: quail. You will learn how to use proper outdoor hunting ethics and learn many safety procedures. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin December 1.)



15 Homeschool Special: Winter Tree ID
Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(All Ages) What happened to all of the trees? How do you know which one is which? In this program, we’ll take you out on a hike to learn to identify some of Missouri’s trees in many different ways. We’ll use a dichotomous key (ages 10 and up), identify trees by their bark and try to identify them by their shape. Dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin December 1.)

16 Owl Prowl
Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls. Come and learn how owls are specially designed for night activities. We will take a short hike to listen and call in some owls. Please dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Jean Favara.* (Reservations begin December 2.)



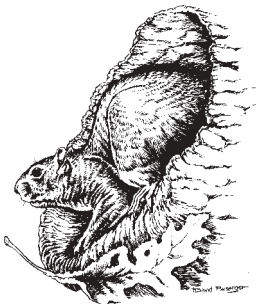
801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on December 24.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

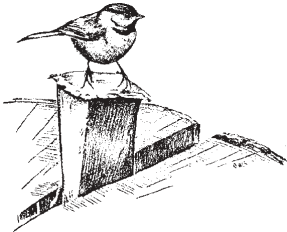
7 Retiree River Ramble
Tuesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 60 & up) Calling all folks over 60! Enjoy a leisurely 3-mile hike on the River’s Edge Trail to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom. This month we will be looking for bald eagles and mergansers, canvasback, redhead, scaup and ringneck ducks along the Missouri River. Bring binoculars and birding guides if you have them. *Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin November 24.)



8 A Long Winter’s Nap
Wednesday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Are you ready for winter? Do you have a warm coat and snow boots to wear? What about the wild animals; do you know what they do to get ready for winter? Discover who hibernates, who migrates and who stays awake all winter long. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson.* (Reservations begin November 24.)



11 Holiday for the Birds
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Families) Take a break from the mad holiday rush and begin a new family tradition. Join us to decorate a tree with treats for the birds at Columbia Bottom. Each family will be able to make an extra treat to take home to feed the birds in their own backyards. *Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin November 24.)



Columbia Bottom Volunteer Milestones	
Pat Behle.....	300 hours
David Petree.....	200 hours
Craig Vincent.....	200 hours

Whooo’s Calling in December?
December marks the beginning of breeding season for owls in Missouri, and Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is a perfect spot to come and listen for their calls. The great horned owls court one another by calling, “Hoo, hoo-oo, hoo-oo,” while the barred owl’s call resembles the phrase, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” Another owl that can sometimes be heard at Columbia Bottom is the Eastern screech owl, whose call sounds like a horse whinnying. The best time to listen for these owls is after dark during the winter.

Although usually rare in Missouri, several long-eared owls spent some time last winter at Columbia Bottom C.A. So come on out to listen for courting owls and search for owl pellets. Also, watch out for an Owl Prowl coming up in January.

What is a group of owls called?
A parliament.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center Hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed December 24.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

3

Fire and Ice!

Campfire & Winter Hike

Friday

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Families) We will begin our night warming up at the fireside. From there we will hike the trail to explore for signs of life in the dark. After our exploration, we will return to the fire to warm up and have refreshments. This program will be held outdoors so remember to dress for the weather. We will meet at the staging area. *Interns: Andrea Bruckerhoff & Susan Duffe.* (Reservations begin November 19.)

4

Bears Take Naps Too!

Saturday

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) We will explore the idea of hibernation. Bring a small teddy bear and build it a den to sleep the winter away. *Naturalist: Kristin Pierce.* (Reservations begin November 19.)

4

Holiday Conservation & Songs

Saturday

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Discover ways to practice conservation during the holidays and sing traditional holiday songs. *Naturalists: Joe Schleeper & Linda Hibbits.* (Reservations begin November 19.)

5

Visiting Artist

Workshop: Soap-making

Sunday

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Make soap using ingredients easily purchased at the grocery store, while discussing traditional methods that used lard and lye. Take home a soap sample made in class. *Artist: Linda Addy.* (Reservations begin November 19.)

7

Winter Ferns

Tuesday

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 3-6) Explore the winter ferns and mosses of Powder Valley through indoor activities and a Naturalist-led winter hike. Please dress appropriately for the weather. *Naturalist: Pat Steudeman.* (Reservations begin November 23.)

9

Winter Hiking

with a Hand Lens

Thursday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10-15) Enjoy a winter hike through Powder Valley’s oak-hickory forest. Participants will make discoveries by using a hand lens and will record their findings in a winter journal. Hickory Ridge is rated as a moderate trail. *Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin November 24.)

11

A Sand County Almanac

Potpourri

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Adults) Aldo Leopold wrote, “The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand... and enjoy....” Nourish your land ethic with a potpourri of activities inspired by Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac*. The program will include both indoor and outdoor activities, so bring your warm clothes and imagination. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin November 26.)

13

Hiking the

Broken Ridge Trail

Monday

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Let’s hike Broken Ridge to appreciate the beauty of hiking in the winter. *Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin November 29.)

27

Hiking the

Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Let’s enjoy the outdoors in winter by observing the trees as they change with the season. *Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin December 13.)

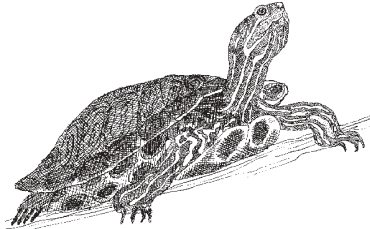
29

Holidays With the Herps

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) Get a look behind the scenes of our Herp Room to learn about the reptiles and amphibians of Missouri. Enjoy a slide show, discovery tables and crafts. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin December 15.)



December Hallway Exhibit



Jim Rathert, wildlife photographer for the Missouri Department of Conservation and author of a recently published book, *In Focus*, will display his favorite pieces of work during the month. Jim will also be speaking on December 3 and signing books at Powder Valley on December 4.

The Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center building and trails will close for the holidays on Friday, December 24, and Saturday, December 25, so our dedicated employees may spend time with their families. The gift shop will close at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 23, so please shop early!

The entire facility will reopen on Sunday, December 26. Happy Holidays!

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM AT HENGES

Natural Holiday Crafts

Monday, December 13
10:30 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Who needs to go shopping anyway? Come to Jay Henges Training Center and make your gifts, so they’re naturally crafted. We’ll have the supplies and ideas, or you can use your own creativity. *Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin November 29.)

Visiting Artist Linda Addy

Soap-Making
Sunday, December 5
11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Powder Valley is pleased to welcome local soap-maker Linda Addy. Linda’s display will include information on traditional methods of soap-making as well as her handmade soaps for purchase. She will also be teaching a soap-making workshop (see the December 5 program description, above, for more information). Her display in the downstairs lobby will be open during her workshop. No reservations necessary.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Ken Barket.....2300 hours
Ginny Burmeister.....1700 hours
Larry Burtelow.....300 hours
Carl Combs.....1200 hours
Alma Dulz.....3300 hours
Eleanor Ernst.....600 hours
Charlie Gentry.....700 hours
Susan Goette.....400 hours

Lee Roy Halbeck.....300 hours
Bill Heady.....1000 hours
Susan Hussey.....800 hours
Audrey Kadlec.....1700 hours
Arta Kirk.....800 hours
Dietrich Mueller.....1100 hours
Shirley Pearlstone.....900 hours
Ron Pohle.....1500 hours

Bernadette Sieving.....500 hours
Dick Wasson.....4000 hours
Neva Wasson.....4000 hours
Bill Woodford.....100 hours
Sharon Woodford.....100 hours
Ginnie Young.....1700 hours